

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-24 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 15, and 16 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 18 are amended, and claims 21-24 are added. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether the drawings are accepted. Clarification in the next official communication is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 7-14 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishimagi et al. (U.S. 6,880,960).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection but merely to advance the prosecution of the present invention, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a rear view mirror assembly, including *inter alia*

wherein a side of the first lens abuts against a side of the second lens so that a substantial part of peripheries of the first and second lenses adjoin each other.

In addition, independent claim 11 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a rear view mirror assembly, including *inter alia*

a base attached to the mirror housing,

wherein the first lens is larger than the second lens, and

wherein a side of the first lens and a side of the second lens fit into a common groove so that a substantial part of peripheries of the first and the second lenses adjoin each other.

Support for the novel features set forth in claims 1 and 11 can be seen, for example, in FIG. 4.

According to the present invention, a substantial part of a periphery of the first lens adjoins (abuts) a substantial part of a periphery of the second lens. Therefore, the mirror assembly is more compact. Since the first lens borders on the second lens, it is possible for light emitting from the turn indicator light to pass through the second lens. Accordingly, the size of the first lens lighting area is not decreased. Thus, the mirror assembly is more compact while maintaining a large area of light.

Mishimagi et al. merely disclose the first lens and the second lens fitted into the through separate holes 22d, 22e of the mirror cover body 22, but fails to disclose the features that the first lens adjoining (abutting) a substantial part of a periphery of the second lens, as presently claimed. Thus, it is impossible for Mishimagi et al. to make a compact mirror, and

it is impossible for illumination from the first light to pass through the second lens. Thus, Mishimagi et al. cannot achieve the effect of the present invention.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11, as amended, is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Mishimagi et al., at least for the reason explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 12, and 18 are amended, and dependent claims 21-24 are added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

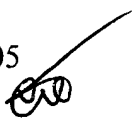
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

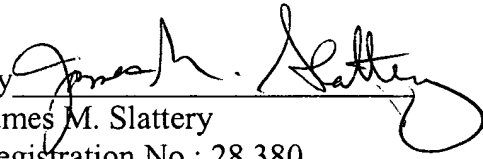
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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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